



US Army Corps
of Engineers.

London Avenue Canal Load Test

Fact Sheet



WHY TEST?

This test is designed to calibrate models used to determine the safe water elevation in the London Avenue Canal. Currently, based on previous conservative analysis of London Avenue canal, the safe water elevation is 4 feet. Based on test results the safe water level might be raised.

Raising the safe water level in the canal would:

- allow the City to pump water into the canal at a higher rate
- allow the floodgates to remain open longer
- reduce the risk of flooding in your neighborhood

This test will not impact the Sewerage and Water Board's ability to pump water into the canal during normal rainfall events.

HOW WILL THE TEST BE CONDUCTED?

Beginning in July the Corps and its partners began constructing a temporary enclosure (cofferdam) along a 150 foot section of I-wall on the inside of the east side of the canal. The cofferdam will isolate this section of the I-wall from the rest of the water in the canal and will be used to incrementally increase the level of water against the flood wall. Sophisticated instrumentation designed to record the impact of the different levels of water on the canal walls and underlying soils will be monitored by expert scientists and engineers. Testing is scheduled to start on August 17 and will take approximately two weeks to complete. Data recorded from the test will take several weeks to evaluate and any safe water levels determinations will be made at a later date.



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NOISE AND VIBRATION

The current schedule requires some night-time activity, however we are doing everything possible to keep nighttime noise at a minimum. Testing will occur during the day and at no point will the Corps hold more than the current 4-foot safe water elevation in the cofferdam over night. Noise during the testing phase will be minimum. The public will be notified if the hours of work change.

SAFETY

Safety for community residents and for adjacent property is our first priority. There will be multiple levels of safety built in to the test procedures.

Safety features include:

1. The cofferdam design:
 - Wing walls (additional sheet pile that tie into the cofferdam) will prevent canal water from entering the test area.
 - Quick release gate and pumps that will evacuate water from the cofferdam in a matter of minutes.
 - Backup protection on the protected side of the levee.
2. A sophisticated instrumentation package will provide real time data monitoring to the engineers as to any change in soil or I-wall movement or water seepage.
3. Each phase of the test will go through a decision process to include consultation with the Levee Authority, New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, and the Corps' External Peer Review Team before the entire team will decide on proceeding to the next step.